



**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation  
to the 56<sup>th</sup> Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure**

**Canadian Branch of the  
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)**

**London, United Kingdom  
March 5 – 16, 2007**

Rob Anders, MP, represented the Canadian (Federal) Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) at the 56th Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure from March 5-16, 2007 and pursuant to standing order 34(1), has the honour of presenting the following report.

# Report

I had the honour of representing the House of Commons and the CPA Canadian Branch at the 56<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Seminar hosted by the CPA UK Branch from March 5 – 16, 2007.

During my stay, there were a few expeditions around London, as well as a tour of the Thames River, and a journey to York. The main purpose of the trip was to foster relations between Commonwealth nations.

Upon my arrival, our group was given a tour of Parliament where I learned about the history of the United Kingdom's Parliament. Although both the Canadian and Westminster Parliaments have evolved separately through adapting to modern times, it is interesting to note the foundation of the Canadian parliamentary practice in the Westminster model. This was further emphasized during proceedings conducted by the House of Commons which included questions to the Prime Minister, which was very similar to Canadian Question Period. It was during this time that the House of Commons debated Trident nuclear submarines, followed by discussion on reforming the House of Lords. During this time, I was able to meet with the Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon Michael Martin, MP for Glasgow, North East.

All forum participants were familiarized with the parliamentary practices and procedures at Westminster. The following seminar presentations highlighted the Westminster Model of Parliament for me and my CPA colleagues: the Parliamentary Scene at Westminster, the Legislative Process, Parliamentary Questions and Motions, The Speaker's Role in Parliament, and the Role of the Leader of the House.

During a visit to the Westminster Palace, I participated in lectures on Parliamentary procedure, duties of the Whip, and the relationship between politicians and the press. It was during this time that I gained a greater understanding of our fellow Commonwealth nations and their parliamentary procedures.

One of the goals of the UK branch of the CPA is to allow participants to visit a region outside of London. We were fortunate to be able to travel to York. Local Councillors and politicians spoke to us about the history of York, local government within the UK and matters of local interest. The Lord Mayor of York hosted a civic lunch for seminar participants. While in York we toured York Minster and visited the Jorvick Centre. We also visited a local school as well as the Innovation Centre and York Science Park.

I had the great pleasure of meeting HM, Queen Elizabeth the Second. I also had the opportunity to meet Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on the occasion of Commonwealth Day at Westminster Abbey.

A definite highlight of the trip was visiting Buckingham Palace, followed by an evening reception at 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister's official residence, and working office. Of special interest to me was a visit to St. James Park, where I toured the monuments to our fallen Canadian soldiers whose sacrifice preserved Britain during the Second World War.

I also acquired some interesting facts throughout the trip. For instance, I learned that the origins of many vernacular phrases like "it's in the bag", "crossing the line" or "toeing the line" were derived from parliamentary tradition.

Overall, I gained a tremendous appreciation of the heritage the Dominion of Canada owes to the British Empire.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair, Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary  
Association (CPA) for Mr. Rob Anders, M.P.

## TRAVEL COSTS

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	56 <sup>th</sup> Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure
<b>DESTINATION</b>	London, United Kingdom
<b>DATES</b>	March 5 – 17, 2007
<b>DELEGATION</b>	
SENATE	
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Rob Anders, M.P.
STAFF	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$ 2,925.93</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	<b>\$ 456.50</b>
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS/REGISTRATION FEES</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,382.43</b>